Tamil protesters halt Test matches

The start of the Test match between England and Sir Lanka at Lord's Cricket Ground in central London was delayed and disrupted on Thursday of last week when supporters of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT) invaded the pitch and staged a militant protest. A second protest later in the day was organised by supporters of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF).

The PLOT supporters invaded the pitch at the stat of the Test and staged a sit-down protest on the wicket. In a satement, PLOT said that their aim ws to show "solidarity with the Tamil Eelam freedom fighters and also to expose to the English public the extent and intensity of state terrorism and genocide perpetrated by the Sri Lanka Sinhala regime on innocent people."

The game was delayed for about half an hour and 13 people were arrested and charged with a breach of the peace. A leaflet was distributed entitled, S"Say no to cricket with Sri Lanka". Posing the contradiction between, "Genocide in Sri Lanka — Test Cricket in London", the leaflet said that South African arms, Israeli intelligence, the British SAS and US funds were being used to 'eliminate the Tamil nation'.

The demonstration came after Lord's had mounted a special security operation to cope with any possible protest. Guard dogs had been patrolling the grounds since Sunday — three days earlier than normal. Ground staff camped near the cricket square overnight to protect the pitch and extra police were on duty. But all this could not prevent he militant Tamil youth from making their stand.

Taken to the police van.

The News Line

Tamil protest at Lord's

FIFTEEN demonstrators were thrown out of Lord's cricket ground yesterday holding banners protesting the terror campaign against the Tamil population of Sri Lanka.

The start of England's Test match against Sri Lanka was held up for three minutes when several Tamils staged a sit-down protest on the wicket.

As England's players and the two Sri Lankan opening batsmen, Sidath Wettimuny and Amal Silva looked on, the demonstrators were dragged away by stewards, and then ejected from the ground.

Arrested

Police said 13 had been arrested and were charged with a breach of the peace.

The demonstration came after Lord's had mounted a special security operation to cope with any possible protest.

Guard dogs had been patrolling the ground since Sunday — three days earlier than normal.

Ground staff camped near the cricket square overnight to protect the pitch and extra police were on duty.

YOUNG TAMILS stopped the Lord's Test Match yesterday before the first ball was bowled when they protested against the Sri Lankan regime's pogrom in the north of the island

Friday August 24, 1984

The Sun

● Thirteen Tamil protestors were arrested after two attempts to disrupt the Test and were later fined £100 each.

Daily Mirror

There were two pitch invasions by Sri Lankan supporters of the Tamil Separatist Movement. Police made 13 arrests.

Tamil demonstrators make their presence known before the start of play at Lord's

Friday August 24, 1984

Daily Telegraph

Supporters of the Tamil separatist movement in Sri Lanka being removed by officials before the start of the first Test match between England and Sri Lanka at Lord's yesterday.

Start delayed

Before anyone had time to discover that, in the event, it would not do anything lavish, the start was delayed by an invasion of the playing area by a handful of Tamil demonstrators.

Fortunately, in view of the time required for authority to remove them, they were intent only on lying on the pitch rather than trying to desecrate it; if the latter had been their objective few tears would have been shed by the England bowlers.

The Gaurdian, Friday August 24, 1984

NOT CRICKET: Tamil demonstrators get carried away during a sit-down protest before the Test match between England and Sri Lanka at Lords yesterday

He weathered two assaults on his concentration from Tamil separatist. Small groups staged one demonstration on the pitch at the start and another after lunch. Both times police and stewards removed the demonstrators with far more ease than they controlled a crowd with no ostensible grievances at The Oval, although a couple of insurgents had to be dragged across the pitch on a fast bowler's length, to perplexed looks from umpire Bird. Wettimuny, however, was occupying the pitch and staying there.

The Times Friday August 24, 1984

A Tamil demonstrator protests at Lord's against alleged atrocities in Sri Lanka

Tamils delay Test match

Sri Lanka's first Test match in England was marked by political protest and a century from their opening batsman, Sidath Wettimuny, yesterday. Wettimuny's innings was a good-natured show of aggression, the protesters hardly any less so.

The start of the match at Lord's was delayed for three minutes as a dozen demonstrators, staged a sit-down protest on the wicket. A second pitch invasion occurred 20 minutes before lunch. Altogether 13 people were arrested

Wettimuny, batting with grace and assurance, scored an unbeaten 116 out of a total of 226 for three.

The two demonstrations that were staged during the day, on behalf of the Tamils in Sri Lanka, were disarmingly peaceful. Trouble of some sort was expected, so that Lord's was more heavily policed than usual, though still much less so than the Den or the Dell or any of the other 90 Football League grounds normally are. Yesterday a dozen or so expatriates came on, waving the odd banner and lying down on the square. It seemed as much like a play as a protest.

Scoreboard

SRI LANKA: First Innings

S Wettimuny not out	116
†S A R Silva l-b-w b Botham	8
R S Madugalle b Ellison	5
R L Dias c Lamb b Pocock	32
A Ranatunga not out	54
Extras (b2, l-b3, n-b6)	11
Total (3 wkts)	226

*L R D Mendis, P A De Silva, D S De Silva, A L F De Mel, J R Ratnayeke and V B John to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-43, 3-144.

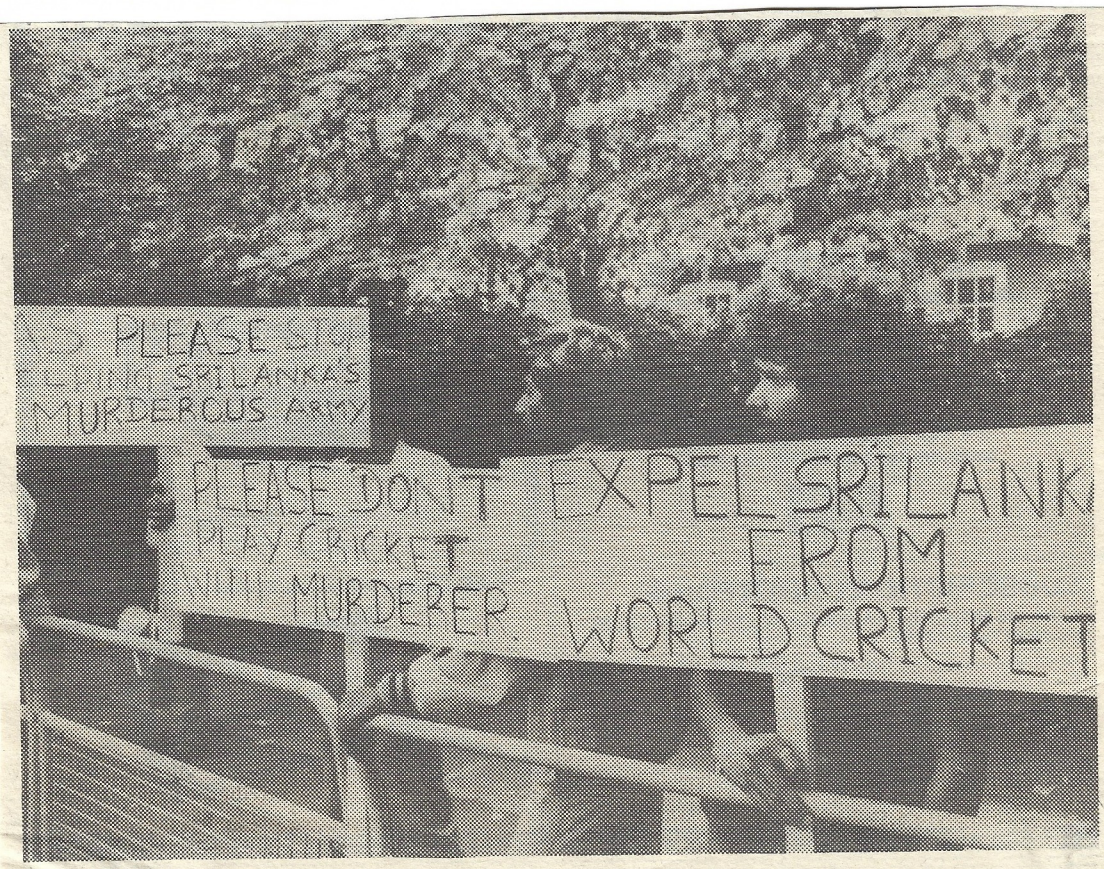
BOWLING (to date): Agnew 16-1-59-0; Botham 16-4-54-1; Ellison 14-3-38-1; Pocock 22-12-28-1; Allott 13-2-36-0.

ENGLAND: G Fowler, B C Broad, C J Tavaré, *D I Gower, A J Lamb, I T Botham, †R Downton, R M Ellison, P J W Allott, P I Pocock and J P Agnew.

Umpires: H D Bird and D G L Evans.

Asian Times

Police lead a protester away.



The protestors message.

Sri Lanka News

A WEEKLY DIGEST OF NEWS

Registered as a Newspaper in Sri Lanka
THURSDAY AUGUST 30, 1984.

Scotland Yard takes over security at Lords

From Reggie Fernando
LONDON, Wednesday

Uniformed officers and plainclothes men from Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Squad were drafted to Lords cricket grounds and its environs here today after Tamil separatist supporters gave notice to Metropolitan Police headquarters that they would be holding a demonstration in that area beginning this afternoon and finishing only after the last ball of the game had been bowled.

In view of this unprecedented event where demonstrators can infiltrate and create havoc inside the grounds, a major security review of Lords was being undertaken by the top brass of Scotland Yard.

A team of armed uniformed men and several other officers with dogs specially trained to sniff explosives are presently patrolling the grounds 24 hours a day and squads of riot police are also standing by.

Demonstration by Tamil separatists

LONDON, Thursday

Tamil protesters invaded the playing field at Lord's, hallowed home of cricket today and held up the start of the First Test between Sri Lanka and England.

About a dozen demonstrators ran on to the field just before the first ball was about to be bowled. Some sat down on the wicket.

As the Sri Lanka batsmen looked on, police quickly removed the protesters and play commenced several minutes late.

Police said four Tamils who staged the sit-down protest were arrested and charged with breach of the peace.

Security had been tightened at Lord's in expectation of a political demonstration by Tamils against what they see as government repression against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. A second demonstration took place after the lunch break. (Reuter).

Protesters bound over

LONDON, Friday

Nine of the eleven Tamil separatist movement supporters who were arrested at Lord's cricket grounds on Thursday after they invaded the pitch twice were found guilty of a breach of the peace by Mr. Canhan at the Marylebone magistrate's court here today.

They were each bound over to keep the peace for a period of one year.

The News Line Monday November 26, 1984

World News Line

Backing comes for Tamils

Tamil students demonstrate outside the Sri Lanka High Commission in London two weeks ago

COLOMBO — The southern Indian Tamil Nadu state government has rejected demands by the Junius Jayawardene regime that it support Colombo's new military hunt of liberation fighters for a separate state of Tamil Eelam.

As Colombo mobilised more troops for its crackdown, Tamil Nadu Finance Minister V.R. Nedunchezian said his government would continue to give 'moral' and 'emotional' support to Tamils fleeing the island.

Nedunchezhian dismissed as unfounded a demand by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa in Colombo last Friday that his government dismantle 'guerrilla training camps'.

He said in Madras: 'There never were any such training camps here in the first place; so the question of dismantling them does not arise.

'We have given some protection to Sri Lankan Tamils who have come here as refugees and we will give them moral and emotional support.'

At the weekend, Sri Lankan police and troops ambushed six boats carrying about 60 Tamils, allegedly heading for an attack on the Kalavanchikudy police station in Eastern Province.

The ambush came only five days after a bomb assault by Tamil liberation guerrillas on the Chavakachcheri police station in northern Jaffna district, in which 24 policemen and three civilians were reported killed.

An air force helicopter fired at the six boats, killing at least four Tamil 'guerrillas', police said. Others had jumped overboard and disappeared into jungle after swimming ashore.

Heavily armed security detachments are combing the nearby tropical jungles. The army claimed that the sweep had led to the arrest of one wounded guerrilla.

In another incident on Saturday, soldiers arrested about 125 Tamils on charges of being suspected guerrillas.

The military said it had found a large weapons cache in a house in Battialoa, Eastern Province.

A 17-hour curfew was reimposed from 2p.m. yesterday in the Jaffna and Kilinochchi districts of Jaffna province and Mullaitivu in Eastern Province.

Government spokesmen said a 12-hour curfew was being reimposed at Mannar and Vavuniya.